

# Watermelon Vines Spread Across the U.S.

## U.S. Regions

### Middle School Geography

#### Objective:

Distinguish between the different regions in the U.S.

#### Materials:

- Political outline maps of United States
- Colored pencils

#### Introduction:

Watermelons are grown in 44 states, and the U.S. now ranks 4th in worldwide production of watermelon.

1. In which state do you **think** most watermelons are grown? (There are no incorrect answers.) Write your answer below.

Two - three hundred varieties of watermelons are grown in the U.S. and Mexico. Fifty popular varieties are grown regionally, with only a few produced on a national scale.

2. These are the top five watermelon-producing states.

Locate the states in the table on your map. Outline them and write how many pounds of watermelon are produced in each one on each state on the map.

2007 (thousand pounds)	
Florida	811,000
California	683,400
Texas	421,800
Georgia	1,036,000
Arizona	336,200

3. A **region** is an area with common features that set it apart from other surrounding areas. The top five watermelon-producing states are located in four different regions.



Locate these regions and shade each one in with a different color on your map.

#### Pacific

Washington  
Oregon  
California  
Alaska  
Hawaii

#### South Central

Oklahoma  
Texas  
Arkansas  
Louisiana

#### Midwest

Wisconsin  
Michigan  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Ohio

#### Southeastern

Kentucky  
West Virginia  
Maryland  
Virginia  
Tennessee  
North Carolina  
South Carolina  
Mississippi  
Alabama  
Georgia  
Florida

4. Describe what you **think** these four regions are like. (For example, mountainous or flat, etc.) Write your answers below.

California, or the golden state is a Pacific State. The Pacific States is a mountainous region, with beaches and coastlines, thick green forests and hot, dry deserts.

Texas, a South Central State, is often called the lone star state. The South Central States have large areas of flat land. They are known for rich deposits of oil, found beneath the surface of land and ocean floor.

The Hoosier state, or Indiana, is located in the Midwest States region. These states are full of freshwater lakes, deep forests, and very fertile farmland.

Florida is the sunshine state, and Georgia is called the empire state of the south. Both are Southeastern States with long jagged coastlines, valleys, rivers and deep pine forests.

Extension: Research remaining U.S. regions.